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Since it is believed, for the reasons set forth hereinbelow, that the formal grounds of rejection have been avoided, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-9, 11-12 are now in condition for allowance.

By this Amendment further editorial changes have been effected to the specification; however, no new matter has been introduced into the specification by virtue of the additional amendments.

Additionally, to facilitate the Examiner's review of the amended specification, by a separate Letter, a substitute specification has been submitted. Applicants note that no new matter has been introduced into the substitute specification and the substitute specification merely incorporates the amendments of April 24, 1991 and the amendments noted hereinabove.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicants note that Fig. 2 of the drawings clearly illustrates a central channel 26. With regard to the tube 26 described on page 14, line 14, by this amendment the reference to the "tube 26" has been changed to read --mouth 25-- which is clearly illustrated in Fig. 2.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the drawings do in fact illustrate the central channel 26 and the mouth 25 described on page 14, line 14 of the instant specification.

With regard to the Examiner's position as expressed in paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Office Action, in the substitute

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specification, the Examiner's comments have been taken into account.

Concerning paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action, applicants note that the reference originally contained in the specification referred to a French application not, as incorrectly amended, a United States application. Applicants note that such French application corresponds to United States application Serial No. 371,441. In any event, the reference to the application has been deleted from the text.

The rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph, is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that claim 14 is an improper dependent claim for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim; however, applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's contention is clearly without merit.

In this connection, contrary to the Examiner's contention, claim 14, does in fact limit the application of the ramjet engine recited in claims 1, 3 or 4 to a missile. While it is true that claim 14 is drawn to a combination of a ramjet engine and a missile, applicants respectfully submit that 35 U.S.C. §112 does not prohibit the dependency of a combination claim on a subcombination claim.

Moreover, applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention. Therefore, it is

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respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph, and withdraw said rejection.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite, as applicable to the presently amended claims, is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment claim 1 has been amended taking into account the Examiner's helpful comments contained in the second full paragraph of paragraph 7 on page 2 of the Office Action.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, are in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and withdraw said rejection.

Since no new issues are raised by the instant Amendment, and since it is believed that the instant Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and since the instant Amendment could not have presented earlier, entry of this proposed Amendment is respectfully requested.

While is believed that the instant Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

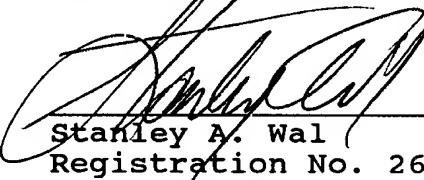
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested, and an early and favorable action upon all of the claims is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary applicant petitions for an extension for time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper including extension of time fees to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, Account No. 01-2135 (659.27786X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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